

McKNIGHT, Cezar E. [D]—(Dist. No. 101, Clarendon-Williamsburg Cos.)—Atty.; residing at 705 Fourth Ave., Kingstree; b. Dec. 10, 1973 in Kingstree; s. Edward and Ruby McKnight; g. Morris Brown Coll., B.A., 1996; Florida Coastal School of Law, J.D., 2001; 1 child, Claire Elizabeth; Gideon Lodge #428, Andrews, P.H.A.; P.K. Gadegbeku Chap. #440, Kingstree; King Solomon Consistory #330, Kingstree; Crescent Temple #180 A.E.A.O.N.M.S., Florence; Kappa Alpha Psi Frat., Inc.; S.C. Trial Lawyers Assn.; Black Lawyers Assn.; S.C. Assn. of the Criminal Defense Lawyers, Williamsburg Co. Bar; Florence Co. Bar; mem., Bethesda United Methodist Church, Lake City; mil. serv.: USA Reserves, 1991–98; prev. serv. in House 2015.



McLEOD, Mia S. [D]—(Dist. No. 79, Richland Co.)—Communications Consultant; Pres., McLeod Butler Communications, LLC; residing in Northeast Columbia; b. Aug. 19 in Bennettsville; d. the late James S. and Shirley J. McLeod; g. Univ. of S.C., B.A., 1990, Univ. of S.C. School of Law, J.D., 1995; Off. of S.C. Atty. Gen., Dir., Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Project, 1997–99; Adjunct Instructor, Mgmt. 250—Professional Comm., Univ. of S.C.—Darla Moore School of Bus., 1998–99; Dir., State Office of Victim Assistance, 1999–01; Dir. of Governmental Affairs, S.C. Dept. of Probation, Parole & Pardon Services, 2001–02; Bd. of Dirs., S.C. Chamber of Commerce, 2007–10; mem., Rice Creek School Improvement Council (SIC), Richland School Dist. Two, 2003–07, Chm., 2003–04; Co-Chm., Richland School Dist. Two Bond Referendum Campaign of 2008; Ridge View High School SIC, 2009–; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sor., Inc.; Liberty Fellow; S.C. Diversity Leader; New Deal Leader; Early Learning Fellow; mem., First Northeast Baptist Church; prev. serv. in House 2011–15.





McLEOD, Walton J. [D]—(Dist. No. 40, *Newberry Co.*)—Businessman/Atty.; residing at 308 Pomaria St., Little Mountain; *b.* June 30, 1937 in Walterboro; *s.* the late Walton J., Jr. and the late Rhoda Lane (Brown) McLeod; *g.* Yale Univ., B.A., 1959; Univ. of S.C., LL.B., 1964; *m.* Julie E. Hamiter, 1 child; Law Clerk, Chief Judge Clement Haynsworth, U.S. 4th Circuit Court of

Appeals, 1964–65; Atty., Pope & Schumpert, 1965–67; Asst. U.S. Atty., 1967–68; Gen. Counsel, S.C. DHEC, 1968–94; Dep. S.C. Atty. Gen., 1987–88; Bd. mem.: Newberry Co. Council on Aging, 2001–; Newberry Coll. Foundation, 2005–; S.C. Alzheimer's Assn., 2007–; S.E. Inst. for Women in Politics, 2007–12; S.C. Humanities Council, 2008–14; S.C. Legis. Audit Council, 2008–; S.C. Bar Foundation, 2009–15; Pres., Newberry Jaycees, 1967; Pres., South Caroliniana Soc., 1990–93; Chair, Central Midlands Council of Govts., 1981–82, 2001–03; Pres., S.C. Magistrates Assn., 1976–77; State Pres., S.C. Reserve Offs., 1981–82; Natl. Pres., Judge Advocates Assn., 1991–92; Editorial Adv. Bd., S.E. Environmental Law Journal, 1993–; J. B. O'Neill Inn of Court, 1996–; recipient of Outstanding Freshman Rep. Award, 1997; S.C. Reserve Off. of the Year, 1998; Outstanding Legislator Award, Gift of Life Trust Fund, 1999; Legis. Appreciation Award, S.C. Assn. of Conservation Dists., 2006; Outstanding Serv. Award, S.C. Amer. Legion, 2006; Legislator of the Year, S.C. Human Serv. Providers Assn., 2008; 1st VC, Jud. Com., 2006–08; State House Com., 2010–; mem.: Amer. Legion; Ruritan Club; Mason; Hejaz Shriner; mem., Holy Trinity Lutheran Church; mil. serv.: USN, 1959–61, 1963 & 1990—Capt., USN Reserve (Ret.); prev. serv. in House 1997–15.



MERRILL, James "Jim" [R]—(Dist. No. 99, *Berkeley-Charleston Cos.*)—Public Relations & Marketing Consultant, Geechee Communications; residing at 2401 Daniel Island Dr., Daniel Island; *b.* Jan. 15, 1967 in Pensacola, Fla.; *s.* James H. and Annette McGregor Merrill; *g.* Univ. of S.C., B.A., 1989, M.P.A., 1992; Aug. 29, 1992

m. Noel Marie Gaillard, 3 children, Delaney Marie, Haley McGregor, and Darby Lee; Press Secy. for Congressman Floyd Spence, 1989–92; Political Dir., S.C. Rep. Party, 1992–94; Dist. Admin. for Congressman Mark Sanford, 1994; Owner, Geechee Communications, 1994–; mem., Univ. of S.C. Alumni Assn.; past Pres., Sigma Chi Frat.; S.C. Policy Council; Berkeley Co. Rep. Party; Whip, Majority Caucus; Fin. Com., Majority Leader, 2004–; Univ. of S.C. Gamecock Club; Daniel Island Neighborhood Assn.; mem., Stella Maris Catholic Church; prev. serv. in House 2001–15.

MITCHELL, Harold, Jr. [D]—(Dist. No. 31, *Spartanburg Co.*)—Businessman; residing at 412 Shaw Ave., Spartanburg; *b.* June 3, 1965 in Spartanburg; *s.* Margaret Duckett Mitchell and the late Harold Mitchell; attended S.C. State Univ., 1984–85; Univ. of S.C., 1985–88; attending Dominion Bible Coll.; Aug. 13, 1988 *m.* Wanda Dawkins Mitchell, 3 children, David Benjamin, Elizabeth Ann, and Hannah Grace; former mem.: EPA, Natl. Environmental Justice Adv. Council; BMW Comm. Adv. Council; State Competitive Initiative Task Force on Distress Com.; mem., Bd. of Govs., Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce; Chm., Spartanburg Housing Dev.; mem., Clinton Global Initiative, 2009–; Affordable Housing Coalition of S.C. Legislator of the Year, 2007; Housing Fin. Authority Housing Achievement Award, 2008; Home Builders Hammer and Trowel Award, 2009; S.C. Educ. Assn. Retired Outstanding Serv. Award, 2009; S.C. Environmental Awareness Award, DNR, 2009; mem., Dominion Comm. Church; prev. serv. in House Nov. 29, 2005–15.



MOSS, Dennis Carroll [R]—(Dist. No. 29, *Cherokee-Chester-York Cos.*)—Retired, S.C. Hwy. Patrol; residing at 306 Silver Cir., Gaffney; *b.* Jan. 13, 1954 in Union; *s.* the late James Edward and Mary Ivey Moss; *g.* Union High School, 1972; attended Spartanburg Methodist Coll.; S.C. Criminal Justice Academy; June 24, 1978 *m.* Janet Ellis, 1 child, Brandon Lindsay; mem.: Lions Intl.; Sertoma Intl.; Gaffney #186 Masonic Lodge; Cherokee



Shrine Club; Hejaz Shrine Temple; NRA; Cherokee Co. Econ. Dev. Bd.; United Way of Piedmont; Buford St. Methodist Church, lay member to Annual Conf.; mem., Bd. of Dirs.: Cherokee Co. Habitat for Humanity; Cherokee Co. Senior Citizens Center; Sportsman Caucus; Rural Caucus; prev. serv. in House 2007–15.



MOSS, V. Stephen “Steve” [R]—(Dist. No. 30, *Cherokee-York Cos.*)—Retired banker; residing at 104 Rains Rd., Blacksburg; *b.* Feb. 3, 1950 in Cherokee Co.; *s.* Winfred V. and Frances M. Moss; *g.* Clemson Univ., B.A., 1972; S.C. School of Banking, 1976; School of Banking of the South, LSU, 1984; Aug. 21, 1976 *m.* Cheryl C. Carlton, 3 children, Elizabeth M., Jessica M.,

and Emily M.; Pres., Cherokee Co. Chamber of Commerce, 1982, 1994; Pres., Gaffney Rotary, 1996; Chm., Cherokee Co. Recreation Dist., 1982–84; Cherokee Co. School Bd., 1990–94; Cherokee Co. Comm. Foundation Bd., 1995–04; S.C. Banker’s Assn. Bd., 2007–09; prev. serv. in House Apr. 28, 2009–15.



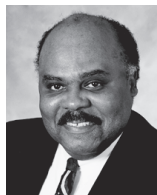
MURPHY, Christopher J. “Chris” [R]—(Dist. No. 98, *Dorchester Co.*)—Atty., Murphy Law Firm, LLC; residing at 4238 Persimmon Woods Dr., North Charleston; *b.* May 31, 1968 in Honolulu, Hawaii; *s.* the late Patrick J. and the late Barbara A. Murphy; *g.* The Citadel, B.A., 1990; Mississippi Coll., J.D., 1995; Aug. 6, 1994 *m.* Maité D., 2 children, Christopher A. and

Jackson F.; founding mem., Summerville Miracle League, Summerville Rotary Club; Asst. Solicitor, First Judicial Circuit, 1996–01; Special Asst., U.S. Atty., Drug/Violent Crime Task Force, 1998–01; Dorchester Co. Council, 2002–10, Chm., 2005; mem., St. Paul’s Episcopal Church; mil. serv.: SCARNG; prev. serv. in House 2011–15.

NANNEY, Wendy Kay [R]—(Dist. No. 22, *Greenville Co.*)—Mgr. Financial Operations, SH Designs, Inc.; residing at 124 Birnam Court, Greenville; *b.* April 16, 1965 in Greenville; *d.* Bob and Barb Taylor; *g.* Bob Jones Univ., B.S., 1987; Dec. 12, 1986 *m.* Timothy Lee Nanney, 5 children, Meredith, Taylor, Kacey, Travis, and Maggie; Chm., Greenville Co. Rep. Party, 2006–07; Treas., Upstate Rep. Women's Club, 2003–06; Winning Women Graduate, 2006; former staff, Sen. Foreign Relations Com.; Chm., Greenville Co. Legis. Delegation, 2015–; Rep. Women's Caucus, 2015; prev. serv. in House 2009–15.



NEAL, Joseph H. "Joe" [D]—(Dist. No. 70, *Richland-Sumter Cos.*)—Minister/VP, New Horizons Systems, Inc.; Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Chester; residing at 1326 Clarkson Rd., Hopkins; *b.* Aug. 31, 1950; *s.* Choatte R., Sr. and LaVerne K. Neal; *g.* Benedict Coll., B.A., 1972; post graduate studies, Colgate Divinity, Pittsburg Theological Seminary; Hon. D.D., Benedict Coll.; Chm., Citizens for Hopkins Comm. Organization; mem.: Moving Forward Comm. Group; NAACP; Kappa Alpha Psi Frat., Inc.; Amer. Soc. Software Engineers; Bd. of Dirs., past mem., S.C. Fair Share; co-founder, CLEAN—Citizens Local Environment Action Network; Bd. mem.: Funds for Southern Coms.; S.C. Environmental Watch; founder and Bd. mem., Area Communities in Econ. Dev. (Comm. Dev. Corp.); Sumter Area Econ. Dev.; Lower Richland Water Authority, Lower Richland Comm. Council; past mem., First Union Bank Comm. Reinvestment Act Adv. Bd.; Rural Sumter Comm. for Econ. Dev.; Chm., Citizens for Hopkins Neighborhood Assns.; Gov.'s Nuclear Waste Task Force; Co-Chm., S.C. Progressive Network; Bd. mem., AAEJAN—The African Amer. Environmental Action Network; Chm., S.C. Legis. Black Caucus, 2000–02; Dep. Dem. Leader; House Ways and Means Com.; Hon. Ph.D. of Humanities, Francis Marion Univ.; prev. serv. in House 1993–15.





NEWTON, Wm. Weston J. [R]—(Dist. No. 120, *Beaufort-Jasper Cos.*)—Atty./Partner, Jones, Simpson & Newton, P.A.; residing at 83 Myrtle Island Rd., Bluffton; *b.* Feb. 22, 1967 in Greenville; *s.* Jourdan J. Macfie and the late Howard Newton; *g.* Washington & Lee Univ., B.A., 1989; Univ. of S.C., J.D., 1993; Apr. 25, 1998 *m.* Rose R. Buyck, 3 children, Reedy,

William, and Eliza Rose; Order of Wig and Robe, Univ. of S.C. School of Law, 1993; Law Clerk, Hon. John H. Waller, Jr., Assoc. Justice, S.C. Supreme Court, Judge of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, 1993–94; Law Clerk, Hon. C. Weston Houck, Chief U.S. Dist. Judge, Dist. of S.C., 1994–96; mem., Beaufort Co. Council, 1999–12, Chm., 2003–12; 2004, 40 Under 40 Top Young Bus. Professionals in Savannah/Hilton Head; Bd. mem., S.C. Assn. of Counties, 2005–10, 2nd VP, 2011, 1st VP, 2012; Best of Bluffton Best Atty. Award, 2007; Univ. of S.C. Bd. of Visitors, 2008–12; former Bd. mem.: Sunset Rotary Club; Volunteers in Medicine; Leadership Hilton Head/Bluffton; mem.: Beaufort Co. Bar Assn.; Hilton Head Bar Assn., Treas., 1997–98; Secy., 1998–99; Pres., 1999–01; Liberty Fellows Class of 2015; mem., Church of the Cross, 1996; prev. serv. in House 2013–15.



NORMAN, Ralph W. [R]—(Dist. No. 48, *York Co.*)—Real Estate Developer; residing at 907 Maple Hill Lane, Rock Hill; *b.* June 20, 1953 in York Co.; *s.* Warren and the late Mary Norman; *g.* Presbyterian Coll., B.S., 1975; Dec. 1974 *m.* Elaine Rice Norman, 4 children, Warren III, Caroline, Anne, and Mary Catherine; past Pres., Rotary Club, 1978; Bd. of Realtors, 1982; York Co. Home

Builders, 1984; past Chm., Bd. S.C. Bank & Trust, 1996–99; Piedmont Hosp., 1998; Bd. of Visitors, Med. Univ. of S.C.; prev. serv. in House 2005–06; Nov. 3, 2009–15.

NORRELL, Mandy Powers [D]—(Dist. No. 44, Lancaster Co.)—Atty., residing in Lancaster; *b.* July 12 in Lancaster; *d.* Beverly B. and the late Carl R. Powers; *g.* Furman Univ., B.A., 1995, *cum laude*; Univ. of S.C. School of Law, J.D., 1997, *cum laude*; Mar. 18, 1995 *m.* Mitchell A. Norrell, 2 children, Powers Thaddeus and Emma Ross Isabella; Order of Wig and Robe, Univ. of S.C., 1994–95; Order of the Coif, Univ. of S.C., 1995; Atty., Partner, Norrell and Powers Norrell, Atty. at Law; City Atty., City of Lancaster, 1999–12; Town Atty., Town of Kershaw, 2010–12; S.C. Bar; N.C. Bar; S.C. Fed. Courts; Fourth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals; Palmetto Citizens Against Sexual Assault, VC, 2008–; Univ. of S.C. School of Law Alumni Bd. of Dirs., 2003–12; Girl Scout Troop Leader, 2009–; Dep. Minority Whip, 2012–14; Minority Caucus Treas., 2014–; Champion for Children Award, 2015; Liberty Fellows, 2015; mem., First Baptist Church, Lancaster; prev. serv. in House 2013–15.



OTT, Russell L. [D]—(Dist. No. 93, Calhoun-Lexington-Orangeburg Cos.)—Businessman; residing at 135 Ott Farm Trail, St. Matthews; *b.* Mar. 26; *s.* Harry L., Jr. and Linda Fleming Ott; *g.* Clemson Univ., B.A., 2000; Univ. of S.C., M.P.A., 2003; 2 children, Lawson Legare and Bryce Jameson; former Town Admin. for towns of Elloree, North, and Neeses; S.C. Farm Bureau, 2004–13; Med., Mil., Public & Municipal Affairs Com., 2014–; mem., Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church; prev. serv. in House Oct. 29, 2013–15.



PARKS, Julia Anne [D]—(Dist. No. 12, Greenwood-McCormick Cos.)—Mortician/Funeral Dir., Parks Funeral Home/Licensed Real Estate Agent; *b.* July 1, 1955 in Greenwood; *d.* Julia (Arnold) Parks and the late James Lloyd Parks, Jr.; *g.* Gupton-Jones School of Mortuary Science, 1977; Johnson C. Smith Univ., B.S., 1976; single; mem.: Greenwood City Council, 1988–96; Stop



the Violence Com.; former mem.: COOL Bd.—Comm. Outreach Organized Learning; Budget Com. for United Way, 1996; Chamber of Commerce; Delta Sigma Theta Sor.; NAACP; Epsilon Nu Delta Mortuary Frat.; mem.: Organization of Concerned Citizens; Morris Chapel Baptist Church; prev. serv. in House 1997, 1999–15.



PITTS, Michael Allen [R]—(Dist. No. 14, Greenwood-Laurens Cos.)—Retired Greenville Police; *b.* in Laurens; *s.* the late Joseph C., Jr. and the late Lois Lollis Pitts; *g.* Lander Univ., B.S., 1985; June 28, 1974 *m.* Susan W. Slay, 3 children, Nolan, Clifton, and Della; VC, Laurens Co. Council; life mem.: NRA; North Amer. Hunting Club; Gun Owners of S.C.; mem.: Rocky Mountain

Elk Foundation; Natl. Wild Turkey Fed.; ALEC; past Pres., Natl. Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC); Other Funds Oversight; Lottery Oversight; Ag. Heads Salary & Benefits; Rural Infrastructure Authority; Rabun Creek Baptist Church; mil. serv.: USAR; prev. serv. in House 2003–15.

POPE, Thomas E. "Tommy", Speaker *Pro Tempore* (for biography and picture see p. 85).



PUTNAM, Joshua [R]—(Dist. No. 10, Anderson-Greenville-Pickens Cos.)—Landscape Supvr., Planter's Touch; residing at 114 Hapsewee Dr., Piedmont; *b.* Nov. 10, 1988; *s.* William and Laura Hyatt Putnam; *g.* North Greenville Univ., 2011, B.S.; Eagle Scout; Victory 2004 volunteer; North Greenville Univ. activities: Freshman Class Pres.; Student Body Pres., 2008; past Pres., North

Greenville Univ. Student Alumni Assn.; past Pres., Coll. Rep.; mem., Cross Country team; former Chm., S.C. Student Legis. Ways and Means Com.; former S.C. Student Legis. Speaker *Pro Tempore*; mem., Christ Church, Evangelical Presbyterian Church; prev. serv. in House Aug. 30, 2011–15.

QUINN, Rick [R]—(Dist. No. 69, *Lexington Co.*)—Owner/Pres., Mail Market Strategies and campaign consultant; residing at 115 John Preston Dr., Lexington; *b.* June 22, 1965 in Columbia; *s.* Richard M. and Ruth LeJeune Quinn; *g.* Univ. of S.C., 1994; July 13, 2002 *m.* Amy McRae Benck, 2 children, Caroline and Trace; Chap. Chm., S.C. Fed. of Co. Reps.; Alumni Dir., ATO Frat.; State Chm., S.C. Fed. of Co. Reps.; House Majority Leader, 1999–04; mem.: Greater Cola. Chamber of Commerce; Lake Murray/Irmo Rotary Club; Chapin Sertoma Club; prev. serv. in House 1989–04, 2011–15.



RIDGEWAY, Robert Lee III [D]—(Dist. No. 64, *Clarendon-Sumter Cos.*)—Physician/Firefighter; residing at 117 N. Brooks St., Manning; *b.* Mar. 11, 1958 in Manning; *s.* Robert L., Jr. and Nettie Floyd Ridgeway; *g.* Univ. of S.C., M.D., 1988; May 23, 1978 *m.* Deborah Collins, 3 children, Margaret Victoria Ann, Robert Lee IV, and Caroline Bowman Ridgeway; Staff, S.C. State Firefighters Assn., 1976–; Pee Dee Firefighter's Assn., 1979–; Clarendon Memorial Hosp., 1992–; Clarendon Memorial Hosp., Chief of Obstetrics & Gynecology, 1992–04; Chief of Staff, Clarendon Memorial Hosp., 1998–02; USAR, 3270th Army Hosp.; Deacon, Manning First Baptist Church; prev. serv. in House 2013–15.



RILEY, R. Shannon [R]—(Dist. No. 13, *Greenwood Co.*)—Businessman; residing in Hodges; *g.* Erskine Coll., B.A.; prev. serv. in House 2013–15.





RIVERS, Samuel, Jr. [R]—(Dist. No. 15, *Berkeley-Charleston Cos.*)—Ordained Minister/Senior Pastor, The Voice of the Lord Intl. Ministries, Inc.; residing in Goose Creek; *b.* Feb. 23; *s.* Samuel II and Mary L. Rivers; Samuel Rivers Intl. Servs. LLC; Motivational Speaker; VC, Berkeley Co. Rep. Party; mem., Christian Intl. Ministries Network; Bd. mem., Medal of

Honor Bowl Game; former Bd. mem., S.C. Foundation for Public Charter; former Congressman Tim Scott appointee to Social Security Adv. Com.; former Victory Chair for Berkeley Co. Rep. Party; prev. serv. in House 2013–15.



ROBINSON-SIMPSON, Leola C. [D]—(Dist. No. 25, *Greenville Co.*)—Retired Dir., Greenville Tech. Coll.; residing at 19 Prince Ave., Greenville; *b.* Sept. 28, 1944 in Belton; *d.* Clyde and Rosa Lee Coleman Clement; attended Shaw Univ., 1963; *g.* York Coll. of the City Univ. of New York (CUNY), B.A., 1975; Furman Univ., M.Ed., 1990; Brandeis Univ., Graduate Certificate in Exec. Pol-

icy & Mgmt., 1993; Leadership Greenville, 1980; July 2006 *m.* Albert Simpson, Jr., 6 children, Dr. Aminah, Alvera, Basheer, Hassan, Shakir, and William; Dir., ESAA, Greenville Urban League, 1976–80; Dir., Chamber of Commerce/Private Industry Council, 1980–88; Comm. Greenville Housing Authority, 1983–88; School Bd. Trustee, Dist. 25, 1996–12; Appalachian Council of Govts., 1996–06; founder, Center for Educational Equity (CEE) Success Center, 2000–12; Author, *Black America Greenville County*, (series) Arcadia Publishing, 2007; Greenville Co. Humanitarian Award, 1996; NAACP Freedom Fighter Award, 2003; GCEC Women Making History Award, 2006; Soroptomist Intl. Women of Distinction Award, 2008; mem., Epsilon Iota Zeta Chap., Zeta Phi Beta Sor., Inc.; prev. serv. in House 2013–15.